MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 27, 1926.

The eighth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1926 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building, on Thursday, May 27, 1926.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Lowbray,
Mr. Medary,
Mr. Delano,
also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held April 29, 1926, were approved.

2. LOADING PLATFORMS FOR CONNECTICUT AVENUE: The Commission considered further with Mr. W. E. Harris, Municipal Architect, the matter of loading platforms for Connecticut Avenue. Mr. Harris said he made sketches for a post with light thereon to be placed at the end of the platforms, but that the Traffic Director had objected to anything other than the type of light that is now being used for traffic signals. There has been no objection to the proposed granite post. The question of widening Connecticut Avenue beyond N Street is now under consideration by the District Commissioners.

Mr. Harris said that Mr. Hadley, District Electrical Engineer, has suggested that the new street lights will furnish enough light for the platforms. Mr. Harris thought that possibly a concrete post would be suitable. The Commission were agreeable to this and called attention to the concrete walls of Meridian Hill Park. Mr. Harris said he would submit

sketches as soon as the District Commissioners had definitely decided what would be done in this matter.

3. PUBLIC CONVENIENCE STATION, Ninth and F Streets, N.W.: The District of Columbia Appropriation Act for the fiscal year 1926 (Public No.595, 68th Congress, page 13) provided:-

> "For a new public convenience station, numbered 5, to be located at the northeast corner of Ninth and F Streets, N.W., $15,000, plus the unexpended balance of the appropriation now available for a public convenience station in Eighth Street, N.W., south of F Street, N.W."

Mr. Harris submitted a sketch for the building, which contemplated taking in some of the sidewalk along F Street and part of the ground occupied by the Patent Office, and said he did not favor the location, first, because the location is too public for a convenience station, and secondly, it is against the building regulations to occupy sidewalk space.

The secretary read from the Minutes of the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts of September 10, 1917, as follows:

> "After an inspection on the ground the Commission felt that to place a structure with such pronounced architectural features in the Eighth Street vista from Pennsylvania Avenue to the Patent Office, and in proximity to the Patent Office and the old Post Office building, which are fine examples of early monumental architecture, would be a mistake. They suggested that the convenience station be placed under the south front of the Patent Office building with entrance at either side, if possible. If, however, it is incumbent upon the District Commissioners to place the public convenience station in the street, the Commission advised that the entrance to it be of the simplest character, and the ventilating shaft and balusters should be designed in such a way as not to disturb the architecture of the two buildings adverted to. The Commission also suggested open stairways and no break in the grade of the street."

Mr. Medary said that the proper thing to do would be to buy a building at the corner of Ninth and F Streets in which to place this public convenience station, and if that is not possible the simplest way would be to place it under the steps of the Patent Office on the F Street side. Mr. Medary said it

was perfectly proper to place public convenience stations in Government buildings. Mr. Harris advised that the District Commissioners have begun to place them in Fire Department and police stations.

The Commission suggested that Mr. Harris take up this matter with the Patent Office authorities.

4. BIRD HOUSE, ZOOLOGICAL PARK: Under date of May 24, 1926, the following letter was received from Mr. A. Wetmore, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution:

> "Funds having been provided by Congress for the erection of an exhibition building for birds in the National Zoological Park, I beg to recall to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts the preliminary plans upon which the estimates for this building were based. These plans are returned herewith. Minutes of the meeting held last fall at which these plans were first considered will indicate that they were approved in general but that the detail of cornice and gable over the entrance were to be referred to the Municipal Architect for modification to place them in full harmony with the rest of the building. They are returned to you now for such submission.
>
> Plans and specifications for the construction of the building will be prepared by the Municipal Architect of the District of Columbia.
>
> The amount available is $102,000, exclusive of the cost of cages. It is understood that about $2,500 of this sum may be required for expenses of the Municipal Architect's office.
>
> Early attention on your part to the detail mentioned at the close of the first paragraph of this letter will be greatly appreciated."

The Commission discussed the plans with Mr. Harris and he was informed of their recommendations made at the meeting of the Commission on January 7th, since which time the plans have been held in abeyance pending an appropriation to carry them out. Mr. Harris asked if it was desired to have the building in Spanish type of architecture, as suggested by the plans, and the Commission informed him the design of the building should harmonize with the place where it is to be erected,-that the building should be in keeping with the natural surroundings. The recommendations of the Commission and the plans were transmitted to the District Commissioners for the attention of Mr. Harris. (Exhibit A)

5. LOCATION OF BATHING POOLS: In view of protest made against the location of a bathing pool for the colored race in Section C, Anacostia Park, arrangements were made, at the request of Dr. George C. Havenner, President of the Anacostia Citizens' Association and member of the Citizens' Advisory Council, for a Hearing on the subject before the Commission of Fine Arts, which was held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Those present were Dr. Havenner, Rev. L. E. Frank, of Anacostia; Mr. Proctor L. Dougherty, member of the Citizens' Advisory Council; Dr. Campbell C. Johnson, Executive Secretary, Y. M. C. A. (colored); Capt. Frank Coleman, Commander James E. Watson Post, American Legion, No.26; Dr. George H. Richardson, President of the Federation of Colored Citizens' Associations; Mr. Tucker, secretary of the Anacostia Citizens' Association; Mr. [illegible] Barber, representing the Randle Highlands Citizens' Association; Mr. Otterback, President of the Anacostia Bank, Father Burke and Mr. Robert Thompson, of Anacostia; and a number of others.

Dr. Havenner introduced the speakers, which he said represented Anacostia, Congress Heights, East Washington Heights, Randle Highlands, and the territory south of Anacostia; also, delegations from the Federation of colored Citizens' Associations of the city, and representatives of the Citizens' Advisory Council.

The first speaker, Rev. L. E. Frank, spoke as a representative of the citizens of Anacostia, who he said are vitally interested in this matter, and who protest against the location of the Bathing Pool in Section C, Anacostia Park; first, because it would cause great congestion on the Anacostia Bridge. Anacostia, he said, is a growing community; 300 houses have recently been built there. Many of the residents are working people, who use the bridge daily, and the section is rapidly becoming one of the important sections of Washington. Rev. Frank called attention to the enormous traffic on the bridge, which with those who would patronize the bathing pool, would reach 15,000 a day. Also there is a great amount of traffic by people who visit resorts in Southern Maryland, who go there on Saturday evening and return Sunday evenings. The Street Railway Company he said would require about 100 additional cars on the line to the already congested conditions on the bridge, which is a draw bridge, and this in itself is an inconvenience to the traveling public.

Secondly, Rev. Frank objected to the location of the bathing pool in Section C, Anacostia Park, because it is away from the great majority of the colored population, which number 120,000 in the District of Columbia, whereas there are only 6,500 living in Anacostia. The great majority of the residents he said who should have the benefit of the bathing pool, those of the poorer classes, could not afford it, because of the great distance they would have to go, fully 6 miles, and it would cost a family of four approximately $1.00 every time they go, and this is unfair to them. In conclusion Rev. Frank called attention to the Report of Representative Gibson, Chairman of the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, that reported on the Bathing Beach Bill (House Report No.138, 69th Congress), which states "every effort will be made to select easily accessible locations near the centers of population to be served."

The next speaker was Dr. Campbell C. Johnson, Executive Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., who also represented a number of Civic Associations of the colored people. Dr. Johnson said he was in agreement with what Rev. Frank said as to the location of the bathing pool in Anacostia, but said there is another matter that the colored people feel very keenly that has not been mentioned,-that is the matter of discrimination. If the population of Washington were one-half million white people, he said, this session would not take place this morning. It is a question of accommodating 1/4 of the rest and that 1/4 feel they have the rights of the other 3/4. He said it was humiliating to his people that one pool has been designated by Congress for the colored race and another for the white race. But as there are to be two pools he could not see why in the expanse of Potomac Park there is not room for two bathing pools, and the colored people are asking for as good a location as that for the white people. "We should consider the matter of aesthetics, and so far as aesthetics is concerned, Section C has no aesthetic surroundings".

Mr. Moore informed Dr. Johnson that the Commission was not insisting that their pool must be located in Section C, Anacostia Park, and that the Commission would prefer the erection of a number of pools in different parts of the city.

Dr. Johnson said that he wished to suggest a location in Potomac Park, at 26th and B Streets, adjacent to the golf course designated for the use of the colored people; it would be easily accessible to the people from Georgetown and would be in good surroundings. In support of his statement Dr. Johnson filed a letter signed by himself and a number of representatives of organizations of the colored people, which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes (Exhibit B).

Mr. Medary thereupon asked if a map had been prepared which would indicate centers of population and Dr. Havenner said he had such a map with him which he had just secured from Police Headquarters. Mr. Medary said the problem is very much like the playground problem. One large playground will not accommodate all and it has become necessary to construct playgrounds in different parts of a city and even special playgrounds for small children. Dr. Havenner said the suggestion was in accord with his desire that if possible no bathing pool be erected this year, but that the enabling act be amended so as to permit of the erection of a number of small pools in the District of Columbia.

Dr. Havenner then introduced Mr. Proctor L. Dougherty, of the Citizens' Advisory Council, who read a letter which the Citizens' Advisory Council sent to Hon. Martin B. Madden, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, on May 25, 1926, as follows:

"My dear Mr. Chairman:

Referring to the act of the present session of Congress approved May 4, 1926, Public No.174, entitled 'An Act for the establishment of artificial bathing pools or beaches in the District of Columbia,' we anticipate that your Committee will endeavor to appropriate the necessary money to carry out the purpose of this act during the present Congress, so that funds will be available July 1, 1926.

We desire to recommend to your Committee that the location of

the two pools be designated in Potomac Park, the particular site in each case to be determined by the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks in consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts. It is deemed necessary that for the greatest good and best service to be rendered by these bathing pools that they have sites so selected as to be nearest to the group of citizens they are designed to serve, respectively.

At a recent conference between the representatives of the Council and the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks, it was suggested that satisfactory sites were available in Potomac Park for both pools, the one for the white bathers to be located south of the railroad tracks in the location formerly occupied by the temporary buildings of the War Department, and the other for the colored bathers to be located at the north of B Street, adjacent to the present colored Golf Course.

The Citizens' Advisory Council is unanimously of the opinion that the site suggested in the Anacostia Park for the pool for the colored race is unsuitable, due to its remoteness from the center of the population that it is intended to serve.

Very truly yours,
Citizens' Advisory Council,
(Signed) Jesse C. Suter,
Chairman."

Mr. Dougherty said that, as the letter states, it expresses the unanimous attitude of the Citizens' Advisory Council, after a very careful study of the problem.

Thereupon Captain Frank Coleman, representing the American Legion, spoke briefly, saying that Captain Johnson had expressed his views, but that he wished to stress the distinct value of having a bathing pool with a beautiful setting,-that he was asking for the colored children the same privileges that the children of the white race were to have.

Father Burke of Anacostia laid emphasis on the fact that it would not be advisable to locate the bathing pool in Anacostia because of the fact that the great majority of the residents of Anacostia are working people who use the bridge daily, as also the boys and girls of Anacostia, who attend High School in Washington, there being no such institution in Anacostia. If there were two or three bridges in the locality, he said, it would be a different proposition, but as there is only one bridge, it would make the problem of transportation hopeless. The estimated 5,000 a day who would patronize the bathing pool he thought would very probably approach the figure 7,000 or 8,000 a day, which would be added to the 15,000 white people that are now living in Anacostia. Then, he said, in addition a great amount of other traffic to Southern Maryland goes through Anacostia; and there are institutions in Anacostia, as St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Bolling Field, and the Naval Air Station, that are to be considered in this transportation problem.

Dr. Havenner then introduced Dr. George H. Richardson, President of the Federation of Colored Citizens' Associations. Dr. Richardson objected strenuously in behalf of his associations against the location of the bathing pool in Section C, Anacostia, "as being the most inaccessible of all places possible that could have been selected". Dr. Richardson said that this location

has given his people to feel that they are being pushed aside and they feel it keenly.

Dr. Richardson was very much in favor of the location proposed in Potomac Park; he said to have the bathing pool located near the Lincoln Memorial would be an inspiration to his people,- "When our young boys and girls come to look upon that face of Abraham Lincoln, that calm, noble, beautiful face, and think what has been the result of his noble deeds, who can tell what inspiration will be derived from that fact alone if for no other reason. It seems to me that it would be most appropriate to place the bathing pool in that locality, of all spots that is the most beautiful and at the same time the most aesthetical, and it would be the most satisfactory to the colored people. If you give us that you will have conferred a favor upon us that we will scarcely be able to repay. There may be talk today about disturbances, but that is not true of the great majority of our people, and we will do all we can to make our people have respect for law, and our pledge will be religiously observed".

Mr. Tucker, Secretary of the Anacostia Citizens' Association said that, after listening to the many reasons that have been set forth, he felt like placing himself in the position of the Commission, who he thought would wish to weigh the advantages against the disadvantages. It has been shown, he said, that there are great disadvantages to locate the pool there in Anacostia, as it would not benefit a considerable number of people to place it there in Section C, and no advantages have been set forth.

Mr. C. A. Barber, representing the Randle Highlands Citizens' Association, was strongly in favor of carrying out Representative Gibson's recommendation that the pool be located in a suitable point near the center of population of the people to be served. Mr. Barber said he had made a study of the problem and pointed out that the center of population of 61% of the colored people, according to the census of 1925, is at Fourteenth Street and Massachusetts Avenue; in 1919 he said this was 59%, which goes to show that the colored population does not shift, but rather is permanent. He thought that is because the colored people are generally poor and must live conveniently near their place of employment. Mr. Barber also felt that several pools ought to be placed in different parts of the city and called attention to the fact that the enabling Act shows that "the pools or beaches" shall be located upon lands acquired or hereafter acquired for park, parkway or playground purposes", which would permit the National Capital Park and Planning Commission to buy a site for a pool.

Mr. Otterback, of Anacostia, called attention to the methods of the United Cigar Stores, and Kresge's, who use an automatic tally to count the number of people that pass a given point. He said the same principle should be applied in locating the bathing pool, and that in locating the pool it should be placed where it will serve the greatest number of people.

Mr. Robert Thompson, of Anacostia, said his place of business is at the corner of Nichols Avenue and Good Hope Road, where he has opportunity to see the enormous traffic as it goes to and comes from the Anacostia Bridge,- at times the automobiles are lined up two blocks long. There has been a great increase, he said, in the white population of Anacostia, but that has not been true of the colored people in Anacostia, and so if the pool were placed there it would not be serving the greatest number of people it is intended to serve.

Dr. Havenner stated in conclusion that he was very grateful for the opportunity the Commission had given to consider this subject of location of bathing pools. For thirty years, he said, he has been President of the Anacostia Citizens' Association and is now its President, and is a member of the Citizens' Advisory Council, having been elected to the first Council and to the second Council. He was one of the prime movers in the establishment of the Anacostia Park. As to the traffic problem in Anacostia, he said that in September, 1934, the Standard Oil Company wished to locate a Gasoline Station at Nichols Avenue and the Good Hope Road. Two men were stationed there to count the motor vehicles passing that point from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for a period of five days. The total number of machines averaged 3,700, one for every 18 seconds. This did not count the horse-drawn vehicles, electric cars, electric trains, nor bicycles; and this was at a time when the summer resorts of southern Maryland had closed for the season.

As to the N.E., Dr. Havenner pointed out that in Precinct No.2 (which is bounded by K, 15th, S Streets, N.W., and Fourth Street, N.E., there are 27,000 colored people; in Precinct 8 (bounded by S Street, Rock Creek, Euclid Street, N.W., and Lincoln and Eastwood Roads, N.E.) there are 23,900 colored people; in northeast Washington there are 9,300 colored people and 8,000 in Benning; in southwest Washington there are 14,000 colored people; in Anacostia, Precinct 11, 5,700 of which 1,586 are in institutions. There are 14,500 white people in Anacostia.

Dr. Havenner said after the bathing pool was removed from the Tidal Basin, the Citizens Advisory Council had been assured by Colonel Kellyill that the bathing pool would be located near a center of population; now to place it in Anacostia is ridiculous,-land can be acquired if necessary; and it is ridiculous to send children 6½ miles over the city, and the whole mass of a population that wants to patronize the pool, over a narrow bridge. Dr. Havenner called attention to the suggested location at Freedmen's Hospital and said he understood the authorities proposed building an extension to the hospital, which he thought would make it impossible to place the pool there. The Citizens' Advisory Council, he said, favored locating the pool there.

Consideration was given to the site at 26th and B Street. Mr. Moore called attention to the fact that the Naval Hospital would need additional ground there. Mr. Moore explained the plan to have monumental buildings from the Lincoln Memorial, and called attention to the construction of the Arlington Memorial Bridge and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway to connect with it. He said he felt the location would be inadequate for a bathing pool, but that the Commission intended to inspect sites in the afternoon.

The location at Howard University, where there is one vacant lot, at Fourth and T Streets, N.W., seemed objectionable to Dr. Johnson, because it was not amidst a beautiful setting, and he could not see why two pools should not be located in Potomac Park. Dr. Richardson said that from the fact that the additional bathing pool was removed from the Tidal Basin it seemed to him that it was not the intention to have the bathing pool for the white people and the colored people in the same place.

Mr. Kelly thereupon called attention to the Report of 1901 and explained the central composition of Washington with its Mall axis leading from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial, and the cross axis from the White House to a point south of the Washington Monument, where a monument to the Founders of

the Republic was to be erected. He said the city is being developed in accordance with the L'Enfant Plan and the Plan of 1901, and as the bathing beaches along the Tidal Basin were in conflict with the development of the Plan of Washington they were properly removed from that location.

Mr. Dougherty called attention to the possibility of locating the pool in the section of the Anacostia Park, near Benning Bridge. Captain Coleman objected to this, and urged that it be located in Potomac Park, where it will have beautiful surroundings the same as the pool for the white race.

Mr. Moore called attention to the work of the Commission to beautify Howard University grounds, and that while the surroundings may not be altogether beautiful now, the plans of development provide for making the grounds and surroundings beautiful; the Commission has consistently urged the extension of Vermont Avenue. Mr. Moore at the same time called attention to the work of the Commission to develop the area south of the Capitol, adjacent to the James Creek Canal.

Dr. Havenner in conclusion offered the services of the Citizens' Advisory Council to assist the Commission in determining upon a location for the bathing pool for the colored race. Thereupon the representatives of the organizations left the meeting.

The Commission felt it very desirable that bathing pools be located now in different parts of the city. The secretary called attention to a letter received from the Barry Farm Citizen's Association, dated May 25, 1926, asking for the location of the pool in Section C, Anacostia Park; but as it had been shown that only 6,000 colored persons live in Anacostia, who would be the only persons directly benefited by that location, as over against more than 100,000 in the main part of Washington, it was decided that the construction of a bathing pool in Section C, Anacostia, was not warranted at this time.

The Commission discussed the matter with Major Grant, who came to the meeting about noon, having been prevented from attending earlier by a meeting of the Public Buildings Commission. Major Grant said he had received a number of protests against the location of the proposed bathing pool in Section C, Anacostia Park, and wished to consider other locations with the Commission. As to the suggestion that both bathing pools be placed alongside each other in East Potomac Park, Major Grant said this was impracticable, as it would cause great congestion of traffic there, since also the Tourists' Camp is in the vicinity where the pool for the white race is to be built.

In the afternoon the Commission inspected with Major Grant the suggested location for a bathing pool on the playground square south of Freedmen's Hospital. A children's pool is there now, but the Commission thought that the square provides space for a moderate sized pool for adults as well.

The Commission visited the suggested location for a pool at 26th and B Streets, N.W., adjacent to the Golf course for colored people. Major Grant pointed out that it will be some distance from the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, and from the Lincoln Memorial; and will at the same time be not far from the street car line that comes from Georgetown down 26th Street. The Commission concurred in his recommendation to construct a moderate sized pool there.

Major Grant showed the Commission a sketch for a pool at Potomac Avenue and Second Streets, S.W. The Commission thought this a good location for a pool.

A report embodying these recommendations of the Commission was sent to Major Grant.(Exhibit C)

3. FORT LINCOLN CEMETERY: The Commission considered with Mr. Horace W. Peaslee, architect, plans for a chapel which he proposes erecting in Fort Lincoln Cemetery. In connection with the plans he talked with the Commission about the Panorama Park and called attention to a booklet describing the Fort Lincoln Cemetery,-page 20, showing a photograph of a Model of the Mall, which is to have the chapel at one end, at the top of the hill, and cloisters with a Campo Santo down at the other end; Page 4 shows a Panorama from Fort Lincoln, looking over the completed portion; on page 8 there is a view of the present condition of the top of the hill from the ramparts of Fort Lincoln. The Commission considered with Mr. Peaslee also the proposed boulevard connection between the Panorama Park and the Fort Drive, and called attention to the recommendation heretofore made tohave Eastern Avenue follow natural contours, in the vicinity of Fort Lincoln, so as to avoid cutting into the hill and cutting into the land of the National Training School for Boys. It is understood that this has been noted by the District Highway Commission and that they will develop Eastern Avenue in accordance with this recommendation.

The Commission suggested that this was a matter to be placed before the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, whereupon Major Grant asked that Mr. Peaslee write a letter to the Park and Planning Commission to this effect, for their attention at the next meeting.

The plans for the chapel were inspected. The Commission deferred a trip to Fort Lincoln Cemetery until the next meeting.

6. UNITED STATES FLAG STANDARDIZATION: The Commission met at the Bureau of Standards in the afternoon with representatives of the Flag Standardization Committee, for the purpose of hearing the result of tests made of flags by the New York Navy Yard during the past 60 days. Those present were Dr. George K. Burgess, Director, and Dr. P. C. Brown, Assistant Director, Mr. J. D. Appel, Dye Expert, Mr. I. G. Priest, Color Expert, Mr. A. A. Mercier and Mr. W. E. Emley, of the Textile Section, Bureau of Standards; Capt. H. D. Vigor, War Department, Lieut. H. H. Wallin, Navy Department, and the Commission. A 'standard' flag and a proposed standard flag had been tested.

Lieut. Wallin called attention to the two flags that had been tested at the New York Navy Yard, in accordance with a letter of instructions sent by the Navy Department on December 19th. Lieut. Wallin read from a report of the New York Navy Yard which indicated that the flags had been subjected to rigorous tests for a period of sixty days. The end of the flags was torn into shreds; the life of the flags seemed of short duration. They looked dirty badly, it was said, because of soft coal dust; parts of the flag had been washed, which Lieut. Wallin said is the custom of the Navy Department. The colors of red and blue had undergone considerable change, so much so that Mr. Mowbray concluded that the formulas of dyes used in the proposed standard flag must be improved, that it is necessary to find dyes of red and blue that will hold their color after service tests.

Mr. Appel said he thought a solution of the problem would be to get a modified formula of dyes of the present 'standard' flag and of the flag proposed. As far as the red is concerned, he thought he could get a red faster to light; the blue seemed more satisfactory but he thought it possible to get an improvement in its fastness.

Mr. Delano asked about the flags that had been received from France,

and he was informed that, except the Navy flag, they were of an inferior quality, and were not being considered by the committee in these tests.

Mr. Medary asked how the present Government standard flag was arrived at. Mr. Appel replied that he thought it was merely as a result of inspecting cert in dyes of red and blue and picking those which were thought suitable.

Mr. Moore asked how the Army and the Navy felt about the change. Capt. Vigor said that he felt that if the committee could get a fast dye he thought the change proposed in the flag will be approved by the Army.

It was generally admitted that it is now a question of getting a fast dye. Mr. Appel will make this the subject of special study and will submit recommendations for further consideration. Then it was thought it will also require further tests of flags.

Dr. Burgess suggested that certain flag manufacturers be interested in the problem at hand of finding a satisfactory red and blue dye. Mr. Mowbray replied that he was cert in Cheney Brothers, of whom he knows personally, would be much interested in this subject and that he would talk with them about it.

8. AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT, WORLD WAR MEMORIAL: At the request of the Agricultural Department War Memorial Committee, Mr. Moore requested a statement from Mr. John Flanagan, who for several years has been working on their proposed war memorial. A reply was received from Mr. Flanagan, in which he states that he expects to have the model complete by next fall. (Exhibit D).

9. TENTH REPORT, COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS: The Commission reviewed the galley proof for the Tenth Report, and made changes and suggestions which will be embodied in the Report.

Meeting of the Public Buildings Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts, Senate Office Building, Friday, May 28,1926.

In accordance with the request of the Public Buildings Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts met with that Commission in the Senate Office Building, on Friday, May 28, 1926, at 10:00 a.m. Those present were Senator Reed Smoot, Chairman; Senator Claude A. Swanson, of Virginia; Representative R. M. Elliott; Representative Fritz G. Lanham; Mr. David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol; Major U. S. Grant 3d, Director of Public Buildings and Parks; Mr. James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect, and Mr. George O. VonNerta, Technical Officer, of his office; Mr. George H. Carter, Public Printer; and the following representing the Commission of Fine Arts: Mr. Charles Moore, Chairman, Mr. H. Siddons Mowbray, Mr. Milton B. Medary, Jr., Mr. Mn. Adams Delano, and Mr. H. P. Caemerer.

Senator Smoot said it was the desire of the Public Buildings Commission at their meeting yesterday to have the Commission of Fine Arts present at this meeting for a conference as to the work to be carried out in connection with the recent $50,000,000 Public Buildings Bill enacted by Congress to provide needed space for Departments and agencies of the Government,-advice is desired as to location and architectural features of the new buildings. Senator Smoot stated that it is necessary to formulate a plan now, so that the question of appropriations, which are to be made at the rate of $10,000,000 a year, can be placed under way. Foremost, he said, will be the Archives Building, and it is desired to determine on the location and character of that building today. Other buildings needed immediately, he said, are an Internal Revenue Building, completion of the building for the Department of Agriculture, and buildings for the Departments of Justice, Commerce, and Labor.

Senator Smoot stated that since the meeting yesterday Secretaries of three Departments telephoned to him expressing their need for more building space, and that he had told them that a letter would be prepared and sent to them, asking them for suggestions as to what they want, and if they desire any particular location for their new building. Major Grant read a draft of that proposed letter. Senator Smoot said he did not give assurance that their wishes would be complied with, but their suggestions would be considered in connection with the general program.

ARCHIVES BUILDING: Attention was called to the suggested location of the Archives Building, between 12th and 13th, B and C Streets, N.W., on Squares 294 and 295, as shown in the Public Buildings Report of 1917, page 461. Both the Public Buildings Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts agreed unanimously on that location as the appropriate site for the Archives Building. The location is such that the building will not require a monumental architectural treatment, so that the cost of construction should not be excessive. At the same time it will be conveniently located to the Government Departments. It will be necessary to buy the land.

Mr. Moore called attention to the fact that there is a Commission for an Archives Building "consisting of the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War, and the Secretary of the Interior", who have approved plans for an Archives Building, and who favor this location; so that all that is necessary in this

instance is to buy the land.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT BUILDING: Both the Public Buildings and the Commission of Fine Arts agreed that the central portion of the new Agricultural Department Building on the Mall should be completed now. Senator Smoot said the Agricultural Department is now scattered in 47 different buildings and even the completion of the central portion of the new building will not give sufficient space. Senator Smoot therefore suggested an additional new building for the Agricultural Department directly opposite, on the north side of the Mall. Mr. VonHerta, of the Supervising Architect's Office, stated that they had prepared estimates for such a building, 780' x 352', to cost $10,000,000. To complete the central portion of the building, heretofore mentioned, they estimate at $2,000,000.

Mr. Moore said there are certain activities in the Agricultural Department building that should be located some distance out of the city, the same as the Bureau of Standards of the Department of Commerce. Mr. Moore said all branches of the Agricultural Department need not take up valuable space in a fine building. Senator Smoot said he felt it important to bring the activities of the Agricultural Department more closely together, and that under the present public buildings bill they are required to plan for buildings south of Pennsylvania Avenue and west of Maryland Avenue.

Mr. Medary thereupon urged the importance of preparing a plan for public buildings to cover the entire area south of Pennsylvania Avenue and west of Maryland Avenue, and called attention to the Chicago World's Fair, where the buildings were properly related to each other. Similarly, he said, the L'Enfant Plan provides for a group of buildings in this space under consideration, and they should be so placed and related to each other as to give the idea of grandeur to the composition. Mr. Medary said, speaking as a practicing architect, that it is impossible to spend $10,000,000 a year on these new buildings, as a great deal of time will be required to prepare plans, draw up specifications and let contracts; and it would be better therefore to begin at once to buy the land needed for these new buildings, before prices will be increased because of the buildings projects in this locality. Mr. Medary said he regarded the Public Buildings Report of 1917, which took in all Government activities, one of the best reports of its kind ever published. Mr. Medary suggested a great plan for a building like the Louvre, which would take care of many government agencies, and have viaducts which would make it unnecessary to close streets that will be needed for traffic.

Senator Smoot said that while a plan for public buildings as Mr. Medary proposed would be desirable, he nevertheless felt that no time should be lost in going ahead with the new buildings that have been suggested, which are very urgently needed. For instance, he said, if fire would burn up certain temporary buildings in which Income Tax returns of several years back are kept, the Government would have no way of proving claims that might be made.

The question of providing an extension in the squares south of the new Agricultural Department building was then considered, and it was agreed that this be done, in preference to erecting an additional building for the Agricultural Department on the north side of the Mall.

BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING: It was agreed that the "Liberty Loan

Building might be completed now by adding some additional stories and facing the building; and that the old Bureau of Engraving and Printing buildingx might be torn down some time and a fine buildingx erected in its place.

BUILDING FOR THE INTERNAL REVENUE: It was agreed that a seven story office building be erected on the square south of the Post Office Department building, between 10th and 11th Streets, for an Internal Revenue Building. This square is owned by the Government.

BUILDINGS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, COMMERCE, and LABOR: Attention was called to the fact that plans for a building for the Department of Justice had been prepared and an award made in 1910, to be erected at the site at 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, which square is owned by the Government; also that at the same time plans were prepared and an award made for a building for the Department of Commerce and Labor south of the Department of Justice, along 15th Street. Major Grant said since then the Department of Justice has come to require three times the amount of space it needed at that time; and that the Departments of Commerce and Labor are now distinct and also require much more space than they did then.

It was therefore agreed that only two buildings be constructed between Pennsylvania Avenue and B Street, along 15th Street, and that the third building could be placed at the site heretofore suggested for an additional building for the Department of Agriculture.

It was agreed that Senator Smoot should have charge of all publicity matter. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

May 26, 1930.

Dear Sirs:

There are being transmitted to you, for the attention of Mr. [illegible] Morris, Municipal Architect, [illegible] plans for [illegible] House, to be erected in the National Zoological Park, in this city, as provided for in the Act making appropriations for the District of Columbia for the fiscal year 1927, approved May 10, 1926 (Public No.[illegible], 69th Congress, p.56).

The plans were considered at a meeting of the Commission on January 7, 1930, with representatives of the Smithsonian Institution, and again with Mr. Morris at the meeting of the Commission on May 27th. Enclosed is a copy of a letter received with the plans from Dr. [illegible] Setzler, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

The Commission recommends revision of the design,-that the facade be simplified greatly; in the interior the elliptical arches should be eliminated; the main entry line should be made to bear some relation to the piers below. The Commission would desire to have the Municipal Architect take into consideration the difference in cost between brick and stone or some other material. The structure should be in keeping with the natural scenery of the Zoological Park.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The Board of Commissioners
of the District of Columbia,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT A.

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAY 27 1926
NOTED

May 27, 1926.

The Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

We are interested in a question upon which you are by act of Congress required to advise, namely, the location of the two proposed public bathing pools to serve the people of the District of Columbia. Congress has seen fit, much to the profound humiliation of the Colored people, to designate that one of the pools shall serve white residents and one Colored residents. The question now is on the location of the pools and this memorial is presented to you by the undersigned for the purpose of preventing an action being taken by this Commission which will make it impossible for any Colored resident of the District of Columbia having even a modicum of self-respect to make use of this public recreation center.

From the point of view of the Colored people of the District of Columbia the question is plainly whether in the location of this bathing pool designated ostensibly for their benefit and pleasure their wishes are to be considered - whether accessibility, scenic and health conditions, facilities for appropriate location and sufficiency of collateral accommodations of a recreational character and ample provision for the enjoyment and development of the aesthetic sense are to be taken into account, or whether they are to be ruthlessly "shoved" into one of the remotest, most uninviting, inaccessible, undesirable and unpopular spots that could possibly have been chosen and which would at the same time emphasize the extreme limit of the meanest possible phase of the spirit of "jimcrowism" and segregation.

If the bathing pool or any recreation center is to serve its full purpose it must possess, preeminently, the most ample means of developing an appreciation of the beautiful, of individual and group civility, of obedience to constituted authority, of self-respect and of self-control; and contribute in the largest measure to the happiness, contentment and inspirational impulses which are calculated to insure the best quality of citizenship. These desirable results cannot be obtained by arbitrarily forcing a large part of our citizenry not only to take a pool located in a place against which they almost unanimously protest, but which caters to the wishes and expresses and executes the threat of the most rabid proponents of a policy of oppression and repression toward our group.

Our request is that this Commission recommend the placing of both pools in Potomac Park (1) because it is the desire of the particular group that is to be served, (2) because it is practicable, (3) because, while the Colored people deprecate and oppose all forms of racial discrimination in the administration of democratic government as unjust and un-American and will ever oppose them on principle, and while there is no more desire on their part to mingle with the whites than there is on the part of the whites to mingle with them, yet, they submit that, in the event of forcible segrega-

tion and of being compelled to contribute in taxes thereto, they protest, in the name of all that is just, or decent, or common courtesy or fair-play, that the very least that can be done is to locate their pool where they would like to have it, namely, in Potomac Park, somewhere near the Lincoln Memorial. This is the request of the vast majority of the Colored residents of the District of Columbia, and can meet with no just opposition on the part of those whose inclinations are not unfriendly or morbidly and insanely antagonistic to the civic interests of Colored people.

The location here suggested is adjacent to the golf links which have already been allocated to the use of Colored people; its accessibility while not ideal is far superior to that of any other suggested site and produces no traffic congestion problem; its scenery is or promises to be in the near future inviting and mentally satisfying. A canvas of the Colored people of the city shows an emphatic approval of this location.

Finally, we request the Commission to recommend the site in Potomac Park near 26th and B. Streets, N. W., as the location for the bathing pool to be used by the Colored residents of the District of Columbia. Under no circumstances do we desire our pool placed in Anacostia or in the southwest at a location south of the Capitol which has been mentioned.

Respectfully,

Executive Secretary, Y. M. C. A.

Commander, James E. Walker Post American Legion #22.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Dir. Phy. Ed. Howard Univ.

EXHIBIT B.

COPY

May 28, 1926.

Dear Major Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on May 27th gave further consideration to the location of artificial bathing pools in the District of Columbia, which were recently authorized by Congress. Representatives of the Citizens' Advisory Council and of a number of civic organizations of the city were present, who protested against the location of one of these pools in Section C, Anacostia Park, for the reasons, primarily, that it would cause congestion of traffic on the Anacostia Bridge and because it would not be sufficiently near a center of population. The Commission therefore recommend that no bathing pool be constructed in Section C, Anacostia Park, at this time.

After an inspection trip to several suggested sites for bathing pools, the Commission are of the opinion that several artificial bathing pools should be constructed in different parts of the city now, and recommend that the Act authorizing the construction of artificial bathing pools be amended accordingly. Locations for the construction of bathing pools for the colored race are suggested: 1, on the square south of Freedmen's Hospital; 2, at 26th and B Streets, N.W., near a municipal golf course; 3, at Second Street and Potomac Avenue, S.W. These pools should be of moderate size.

It is understood that the artificial pool for the White race will be constructed in East Potomac Park, alongside the Tourists' Camp. The Commission prefer that this bathing pool be constructed without the idea of expansion, since additional pools for the white race should also be provided in time in other parts of the city.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Major U. S. Grant 3d, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks
of the National Capital,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT C.

STUDIO 608
1931 BROADWAY
NEW YORK CITY
N.Y.

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MAY 26 1926
NOTED

Charles Moore,Esq.,
Chairman,The Commission of Fine Arts,

Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr.Moore:

Kindly excuse my delay in answering your letter of May 14th,I have never in my life been so harassed with work as I am now -and have been for some time past.I have three commissions going,on all three of which I must work simultaneously,these commissions all date from about the same time,and have about the same time set for their completion.

In the ensemble of this work,the Department of Agriculture World War Memorial gets its due share of my personal effort,but the division of my time among three works does not make for speed on any one.

Up to the present I have not been able to have an assistant largely on account of their scarcity,and of the high pay they get - just now $20. a day,pay I cannot afford to give.However,in spite of this I will try to get one,and do my best to get the model done at the earliest moment,let us say by autumn.

Believe me I regret very much the embarassment the delay in completing this work has caused the Commission of Fine Arts,in fact it is the thing that has bothered me most in this matter I trust that from now on,there will be no further cause for embarassment.

Along with this letter to you I am replying to Mr. Lucas's letter directly.

Sincerely yours,

John Flanagan

May 24 1926.

EXHIBIT D.

Major U. S. Grant, 3d,
Executive and Disbursing Officer,
Public Buildings Commission,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Major Grant:

Reference is made to your letter of June 1, 1926, relative to the program to be followed under the recently enacted Public Buildings Act.

The Department recommends the retention of the Weather Bureau establishment at 24th & M Streets, Northwest, and its exclusion from consideration of space needs. The property is owned by the Government and is in excellent condition. It provides 47,775 square feet of space.

The buildings at 1418-20 Pennsylvania Avenue and a garage at 1418 E Street, Northwest, are in one of the squares owned by the Government and ultimately to be cleared. We occupy in them 17,752 square feet.

In temporary buildings, including Government Hotel N-O, we occupy 196,000 square feet.

It is understood that the Public Buildings Commission will probably approve the purchase of the new building at 300 Linworth Place recently constructed by the Economics Building Company and leased March 15, 1926, by the Department. This building has 50,000 square feet of floor space, in round numbers.

The needs of the Department therefore are as follows:

To replace all rented space	573,200
To replace all space in temporary war bldgs.	196,000
To replace 1418-20 Pennsylvania Ave.	7,452
To replace Garage (1418 E St. N.W.).	10,300
To replace net space on reservation	104,085
	891,037

The Department assumes that the central pavilion will provide when built	90,000
Purchase of the Economics Building will reduce <u>rented</u> space by 50,000	50,000
	140,000

On this basis total needs of the Department would be 891,037 - 140,000 = 751,037.

The Department does not favor the idea of segregating activities in buildings of relatively low cost on inexpensive land at some distrance from the center of the city. One of the severest handicaps to efficiency in the past has been the dispersion of important units in widely scattered locations. For a program looking to the future, the Department strongly favors concentration in as few buildings as possible and those reasonably close together.

THE ARCHIVES BUILDING

In January 1926, the Department reported to the Public Buildings Commission 75,000 square feet of floor space used for files. The 75,000 square feet of floor space thus used is scattered in comparatively small units through nearly all of our buildings. The greater portions of these files are active and cannot be removed from the offices in which they are used. If the inactive portions were segregated and removed, only a negligible amount of space would be released in each of the units from which they were removed. It follows that only a comparatively small amount of space would be needed <u>at this time</u> in an archives building. The necessity of providing for future requirements would suggest the allotment to this Department of somewhat more space in an archives building than is required for present needs. An estimate is difficult, but it is believed that a space of 60,000 cubic feet would suffice. This represents a room 150' x 40' x 10' high, devoted to <u>files</u> but not to storage of materials.

Sincerely yours,

W M Jardine

Secretary.

EXHIBIT A.

COPY

June 19, 1926.

Dear Mr. Harris:

After their talk with you on Thursday, the members of the Commission of Fine Arts visited the site of the new McKinley High School. They were very much impressed with the commanding situation and the great opportunity for the fine treatment of a notable site. In this connection the Commission felt that it would be unwise and uneconomical to build two power houses to serve a single purpose in a single block,-namely the heating of school buildings. While it was recognized that there would be a necessity of pumping if there was a combined heating apparatus, yet this expense would be insignificant when compared with the cost of operating two plants in the same block where one should suffice. The Commission suggested that the wall of the present heating plant of the Langley Junior High School be taken out and an extension be made to that plant, using one smoke-stack. The Commission felt that the residents on Second and R Streets, Northeast, have reason to urge the inconvenience they would suffer by reason of the proximity of a power house to their homes. Their grievance is especially directed toward the use of soft coal and the consequent flooding of the houses with smoke and soot. The cost of cleaning due directly to the use of soft coal in public buildings is a direct tax on the community, and it is to be hoped that this matter will be taken into most careful consideration in the designing and installing of the heating apparatus for the new McKinley High School.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mr. A. L. Harris,
Municipal Architect,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT B.

COPY

June 18, 1926.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on June 17th, considered Mr. Keck's final models for the Vermont Sesquicentennial coin and decided to approve them.

In the case of future coins, however, the Commission would appreciate the opportunity of getting into early touch with the designer. Almost invariably the designer works under instructions from a local committee so unfamiliar with medallic art as to preclude the possibility of a design worthy of the United States of America.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. R. J. Grant,
Director of the Mint,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT C.

COPY

June 18, 1926.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts at the meeting on June 17th considered the flagpole presented by you. This pole seems to overcome the objections raised to the poles formerly submitted. It is more rigid at the base and has the appearance of greater stability. The only way to be sure in regard to these particulars is by an actual trial on the street, and the Commission would like to see such a trial made before expressing a definite opinion. Since the matter of the street flagpoles was first presented to the Commission different members have examined the workings of the system in various cities and towns and are satisfied in their own mind that the conditions under which the street flags can be used satisfactorily are limited. For example, on two of the streets suggested, namely Sixteenth Street and Massachusetts Avenue, the conditions of trees, private residences, apartment houses, and wide open spaces, would prevent an effective display. The most effective use of street flags is on narrow streets where the flags on both sides of the street catch the eye. The Commission, however, are satisfied that a more effective decoration can be devised at no greater expense to take the place of the objectionable draping of store fronts.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Norman B. Landreau, Chairman,
Joint Committee American Legion
and Veterans of Foreign Wars,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT D

COPY

June 18, 1926.

My dear General Cheatham:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on June 17, 1926, considered the design which you submitted with your letter of June 8th, for a memorial chapel to be erected at Plattsburg Barracks, New York.

The Commission approved the design as a composition, subject to the submission of working drawings showing its true scale.

The correspondence is herewith returned.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Major General B. F. Cheatham,
The Quartermaster General,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E.

COPY

June 18, 1926.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on June 17, 1926, considered with Mr. J. George Wright, Superintendent of the Osage Indian Agency at Pawhuska, Oklahoma, the design submitted by you for a monument to be erected at Pawhuska as a memorial to Indians of the Osage Tribe who gave up their lives in the World War.

The Commission regarded the design inappropriate and too poorly executed for a memorial and therefore disapproved it. The Commission feel that this is an exceptional opportunity to erect a beautiful memorial to the Osage Indians, and the design should be made by one skilled in the art of sculpture or architecture, and who has feeling for the traditions and history of the Indians.

The Commission will be pleased to cooperate with you in this matter with a view to securing an appropriate memorial. The correspondence which you submitted is herewith returned.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Charles H. Burke,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT F.

COPY

June 18, 1926.

My dear Senator Capper:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on June 17th, unanimously recommended that the new Police Court building be located in Judiciary Square, along Fifth Street, between E and F Streets as prolonged into the Square.

Enclosed is correspondence on the subject, which you asked to have returned to you.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Arthur Capper, Chairman,
Committee on the District of Columbia,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT G.

COPY

June 18, 1926.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting yesterday, gave consideration to your letter of June 12th, requesting in behalf of the Zoning Commission an opinion as to the proposed erection of an eight story Apartment House at Massachusetts Avenue, northeast, east of Second Street, which would exceed the height allowed in that locality under the Zoning Law.

When the Union Station Plaza was laid out, regulations were made as to the height of buildings facing it. These regulations were formulated with the view of obtaining a uniform height of buildings to frame the plaza. At least three hotels have been built within the restrictions. This Commission believe that the restrictions were reasonable and should be carried out on the east side of the plaza as they have been carried out on the west side. Therefore, whatever the regulations are for the west side of the plaza, the Commission believe the same should be enforced on the east.

The drawing which you submitted is herewith returned.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Major R. A. Wheeler, U.S.A.,
Executive Officer,
Zoning Commission,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT H.